

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 5, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The invention relates to an optical communication network ~~according to the preamble of claim 1~~, network node devices for use in such an optical communication network and an optical information transmission method ~~according to the preamble of claim 17~~.

Page 1, line 11, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--.

Page 2, line 13, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, lines 19-20.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, lines 22-23.

Page 3, line 31, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 4, line 37, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.